

Delta Vision: Invitation to Participate in Developing Alternative Visions

The Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force invites interested parties to work with the Stakeholder Coordination Group (SCG) to submit visions for sustainable management of the Delta, including Suisun Marsh.

Alternative visions of the Delta and Suisun Marsh already are being developed in several arenas. The Delta Vision SCG, whose 43 members were appointed by Resources Agency Secretary Mike Chrisman, is charged with developing alternative visions by August 2007; interested parties are encouraged to work with SCG members to incorporate their ideas into the SCG visions.

The Task Force members are explicitly recognizing the creative power of individuals or groups who may not already be part of this process but who have ideas or visions that would be beneficial for the Delta and Suisun Marsh. The SCG represents a diverse range of interests in the Delta and Suisun Marsh and is charged to reach out to its constituents to assist them in their task. It is the intent of the Task Force members that visionaries work with the SCG rather than produce separate visions; however, the provisions listed below outline how separate visions may be submitted into the process.

Other visions and elements of visions will be developed in several public processes, such as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, the Delta Risk Management Strategies, and the Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan. Two examples of visions generated outside public processes exist: (1) *Envisioning Futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta* from the Public Policy Institute of California (2007) and (2) *ReEnvisioning the Delta: Alternative Futures for the Heart of California* from the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, University of California, Berkeley (2007).

Submissions of alternative visions outside the Stakeholder Coordination Group

In addition to the efforts listed above, the Task Force also invites submissions of visions for sustainable management of the Delta from interested parties that meet the following criteria.

Content: Visions should be short, non-technical documents developed with sufficient detail to clearly convey how they seek to achieve a durable vision for sustainable management of the Delta. Executive Order S-17-06 (attached) charges the Task Force to develop a vision for sustainable management of the Delta which addresses these issues:

1. The environment, including aquatic and terrestrial functions and biodiversity.
2. Land use and land use patterns, including agriculture, urbanization, and housing.
3. Transportation, including streets, roads, highways, waterways, and ship channels.
4. Utilities, including aqueducts, pipelines, and gas/electric transmission corridors.
5. Water supply and quality, municipal/industrial discharges and urban and agricultural runoff.
6. Recreation and tourism, including boating, fishing, and hunting.
7. Flood risk management, including levee maintenance.
8. Emergency response.
9. Local and state economies.

In addition, the vision eventually recommended by the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force will address governance and include a strategic plan for finance, as required by AB1803. Any vision submitted may also speak to these issues, especially if they are critical to the vision proposed.

Eight of the issues above are included in the list of services provided by the Delta in the *Status and Trends of Delta-Suisun Services* report (2007). Emergency response is not considered a service.

A submission also should discuss how the vision will address the six drivers of change identified in the *Status and Trends of Delta-Suisun Services* report:

- a. Subsidence,
- b. Sea level rise,
- c. More winter flooding,
- d. Seismic activity,
- e. Introduced species, and
- f. Population growth and urbanization.

The report is available at <http://www.deltavision.ca.gov/DeltaVisionStatusTrends.shtml>

Not all of the nine issues related to sustainability or six drivers of change need be addressed in the same level of detail in preparing a vision. As the Executive Order creating Delta Vision requires developing a vision in 2007 and a strategic plan in 2008, some issues are appropriately addressed in the strategic planning process and issues differ in how powerfully they will affect sustainable management of the Delta. Similarly, drivers of change differ in how powerfully they are likely to affect the Delta.

Requirements of a submission: Delta Vision is charged with developing a durable vision for sustainable management of the Delta and that requires addressing more than single services provided by the Delta (e.g., ecosystem functions, water exports or agriculture) or single drivers of change (e.g., introduced species). To be considered, any vision submitted should address at least four issues and four drivers of change:

1. The environment, including aquatic and terrestrial functions and biodiversity;
2. Land use and land use patterns, including agriculture, urbanization, and housing;
3. Water supply and quality, municipal/industrial discharges and urban and agricultural runoff;
4. Local and state economies;
5. Sea level rise;
6. More winter flooding;
7. Seismic activity; and
8. Population growth and urbanization.

Addressing other issues and drivers of change is welcomed. This list is intended to ensure that all proposed visions contain enough major elements to be relatively comprehensive. The common elements, all based in the Executive Order and related legislation, will also allow more effective comparison of visions.

Consistent with the difference between a vision and a strategic plan, the submitted vision should not be overly specific. For example, a vision detailing allowable land uses for specific

islands is not appropriate, but a vision which anticipates achieving levels of protection by class of use (e.g., agriculture vs. urban) for identified sub areas of the Delta would be appropriate. Similarly, a vision could propose restoration of marshes with tidal influence in an area of the Delta of a desired size and attributes without specifying exact location. In the same vein, a vision could propose a decrease or increase in water exported from the Delta without allocating the changes among users.

Processes for assessing alternative visions.

1. Externally generated submissions must be received by July 23, 2007. During the processes below, submissions and other visions may be modified or elaborated in response to analyses or comments.
2. Upon receipt of an external submission, Delta Vision staff will review the submission to determine if it meets the requirements specified above. Staff may request clarification of materials or identify areas where augmentation would improve the clarity of a vision.
3. All submissions will be posted to the Delta Vision web site and identified in reports to the Delta Vision Task Force.
4. The staff may decide to report receipt of an external submission but not forward it into the next steps of the process if judged to fall short of the requirements above.
5. The staff may identify visions generated in other public processes or outside public processes which substantially meet the requirements above and bring them into this process without formal submission from those involved in their creation.
6. Visions generated in the Stakeholder Coordination Group (SCG) or externally which meet the requirements above will be forwarded into whatever processes are established to assess alternative visions in support of the role of the Task Force. Those processes are expected to include review by scientists and program managers and may include other reviews.
7. The SCG is charged with developing visions to submit to the Blue Ribbon Task Force by August, 2007 and they are to refine their vision in September and advise the BRTF through 2008. At its discretion, the SCG may use information from externally generated visions in refining their visions. The SCG may also comment upon an externally submitted vision and those comments will be conveyed to the Task Force.

Additional information

Information about Delta Vision and other efforts developing visions for sustainable management of the Delta and Suisun can be found at:

<http://www.deltavision.ca.gov/> Among other resources at this site focused on Delta Vision, note the "context papers" being developed and posted for comment. These provide relatively short presentations of issues intended to inform policy making. Where possible, using informa-

tion from the context papers in developing a vision will assist all involved in understanding whatever vision is proposed.

<http://resources.ca.gov/bdcp/> The Bay Delta Conservation Plan web site.

<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=671> The PPIC Delta report.

<http://www.drms.water.ca.gov/> Papers and reports for the Delta Risk Management Strategies project required by AB 1200.

http://www.deltavision.ca.gov/docs/DV_Status_and_Trends.pdf The Status and Trends report.

<http://landscape.ced.berkeley.edu/~delta/> The UC Berkeley's Delta Initiative website & report.

Attachment: EXECUTIVE ORDER S-17-06

WHEREAS the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta estuary, including Suisun Bay and Marsh (hereafter "Delta"), supports a unique and irreplaceable combination of environmental and economic resources. The Delta is a source of water for farmlands, growing communities and businesses and provides a unique estuarine habitat for many resident and migratory fish and birds, some listed as threatened or endangered species. It is an area that supports vital energy, transportation, communications and water facilities, and important agricultural, recreational and cultural resources. The Delta is of state and national significance and must be protected and managed effectively for the future well being of the people and the environment; and

WHEREAS the Delta is intersected by highways, roads, and utility lines critical to regional, state and interstate commerce and economy; and

WHEREAS the Delta is the hub of California's two largest water distribution systems, the federal Central Valley Project and State Water Project, and at least 7,000 other permitted water diverters have developed water supplies from the watershed feeding the Bay-Delta estuary, providing drinking water to about 23 million people and irrigation water to about 7 million acres of highly productive agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS recent events like the Lower Jones Tract levee failure and Hurricane Katrina, and recent findings that indicate a two in three chance of a major earthquake occurring in or near the Delta in the next fifty years, have raised awareness and concerns about the vulnerability of Delta levees. Failure of Delta levees can have devastating consequences on farms, communities, roads, railways, power and fuel transmission lines, water conveyance and quality, wildlife resources, and the local and state economy; and

WHEREAS threats such as an aging levee system, regional climate change, rising sea levels, seismic events and urbanization pose an imminent threat to the Delta; and

WHEREAS recent legislation, a number of planning efforts and scientists have affirmed that current uses and ecosystem health in the Delta are unsustainable over the long-term; and

WHEREAS there is growing recognition that prior Delta and Suisun strategic planning efforts have been too narrowly focused on only a few of the Delta's many uses and resources; and

WHEREAS the combined threats and changing conditions within the Delta require immediate attention because of the potentially catastrophic environmental and economic consequences if timely action is not planned for and undertaken; and

WHEREAS the existing complex system of Delta governance has been criticized because no one level of government is fully in charge, or capable of responding in an orderly and effective way to address and mitigate the range of threats to the Delta.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby order effective immediately:

1. I hereby initiate the Delta Vision and establish an independent Blue Ribbon Task Force to develop a durable vision for sustainable management of the Delta. Making the Delta more sustainable will require a concerted, coordinated and creative response from leaders at all levels of government, stakeholders, academia and affected communities, and will require significant private and public partnerships and investments. The Delta Vision is designed to accomplish these goals:

(a) Meet the requirements of Assembly Bill 1200 (Water Code Sections 139.2 and 139.4), Assembly Bill 1803 (Water Code Section 79473) and SB 1574.

(b) Coordinate and build on the many ongoing but separate Delta planning efforts.

(c) Assess the risks and consequences to the Delta's many uses and resources in light of changing climatic, hydrologic, environmental, seismic, and land use conditions. This assessment will look at:

- The environment, including aquatic and terrestrial functions and biodiversity.

- Land use and land use patterns, including agriculture, urbanization, and housing.
- Transportation, including streets, roads, highways, waterways, and ship channels.
- Utilities, including aqueducts, pipelines, and gas/electric transmission corridors.
- Water supply and quality, municipal/industrial discharges and urban and agricultural runoff.
- Recreation and tourism, including boating, fishing, and hunting.
- Flood risk management, including levee maintenance.
- Emergency response.
- Local and state economies.

(d) Develop a program for sustainable management of the Delta's multiple uses, resources and ecosystem. Sustainable management of the Delta means managing the Delta over the long term to restore and maintain identified functions and values that are determined to be important to the environmental quality of the Delta and the economic and social well being of the people of the state. As part of the Delta Vision, priority functions and values will be identified, and measures necessary to provide long-term protection and management will be evaluated.

(e) Develop a Strategic Plan to implement findings and recommendations for public policy changes, public and private investment strategies, Delta-Suisun preparedness and emergency response plans for near-term catastrophic events, levee maintenance options, and how to monitor and report performance.

(f) Develop recommendations on institutional changes and funding mechanisms necessary for sustainable management of the Delta. Recommendations may include a discussion of oversight, land use and implementation authorities.

(g) Inform and be informed by current and future Delta planning decisions such as those pertaining to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Bay Delta Conservation Plan, Suisun Marsh Plan, Water Plan, updates of related General Plans, transportation and utilities infrastructure plans, integrated regional water management plans, and other resource plans.

2. The Secretary of the Resources Agency as chair, and the Secretaries of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Environmental Protection Agency, along with the President of the Public Utilities Commission shall be the Delta Vision Committee, for the Delta Vision. They shall undertake the following:

(a) Explore entering into agreements with private and non-governmental organizations to receive funding for Delta Vision. In addition, the Director of Finance may also accept monetary and in kind contributions to support the activities of the Delta Vision.

(b) Create a Stakeholder Coordination Group to involve local government, stakeholders, scientists, engineers, and members of the public in this effort to develop a Delta Vision.

(c) Select Delta Science Advisors from diverse scientific disciplines to provide independent review and advice to the Blue Ribbon Task Force on technical, scientific, and engineering data, analyses, and reports.

(d) Report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2008 with recommendations for implementing the Delta Vision and Strategic Plan.

3. I will appoint the members of a Blue Ribbon Task Force to include diverse expertise and perspectives, policy and resource experts, strategic problem solvers, and individuals having successfully resolved multi-interest conflicts. The Task Force will seek input from a broad array of public officials, stakeholders, scientists, and engineers. The Task Force will prepare an independent public report that will be submitted to the Delta Vision Committee and Governor that sets forth its findings and recommendations on the sustainable management of the Delta by January 1, 2008 and a Strategic Plan to implement the Delta Vision by October 31, 2008.

4. Upon submittal of the Delta Vision Committee's recommendations to the Governor and Legislature, the Delta Vision initiative shall terminate unless extended by another executive order.

5. This order is not intended to create, and does not create, any right or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, agents, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 28th day of September 2006.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

Governor of California

ATTEST:

BRUCE McPHERSON

Secretary of State